IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 7, as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A contents processing apparatus comprising:

a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents, a contents management

file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents, plug-in modules for executing

processing of contents, and a plug-in management file for defining executable operative

functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of the respective plug-in

modules, the contents management file managing operations for respective contents, and the

plug-in management file managing operative functions for respective plug-in modules;

a plug-in setting device that installs plug-in modules corresponding to the contents to be

processed;

an operation recognition device that identifies permitted operations relating to execution

of processing of the contents to be processed from the contents management file corresponding

to the contents to be processed;

an execution instructing device that provides an instruction for executing the processing

of the contents;

a plug-in function permission device that permits use of the executable operative

functions defined by said plug-in management file and corresponding to the permitted operations

identified by said operation recognition device, among functions of the plug-in modules installed

by said plug-in setting device, with respect to the processing of the contents instructed to be

executed by said execution instructing device; and

a contents processing execution device that executes processing of the contents to be processed, according to the functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission device.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously Presented) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents processing apparatus is coupled to an external apparatus via a communication network, and the contents management file is obtained from the external apparatus via the communication network.

4.   (Previously Presented) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents management file is rewritable and is obtained independently of the contents corresponding thereto.

5.   (Previously Presented) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in management file is rewritable and is obtained independently of the contents corresponding thereto.

6.   (Previously Presented) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents are inhibited from being used when there is no contents management file corresponding to the contents, and are also inhibited from being processed when there is no plug-in management file corresponding to the contents.

7.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium having encoded thereon a contents processing program including instructions which when executed by a contents processing apparatus including a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents, plug-in modules

for executing processing of contents, and a plug-in management file for defining executable

operative functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of the respective plug-

in modules, the contents management file managing operations for respective contents, and the

plug-in management file managing operative functions for respective plug-in modules, causes:

installing, by a plug-in setting module, plug-in modules corresponding to contents to be

processed;

identifying, by an operation recognition module, permitted operations relating to

execution of processing of the contents to be processed from the contents management file

corresponding to the contents to be processed;

providing an instruction for executing the processing of the contents;

permitting, by a plug-in function permission module, use of the executable operative

functions defined by said plug-in management file and corresponding to the permitted operations

identified by said operation recognition module, among functions of the plug-in modules

installed by said plug-in setting module, with respect to the processing of the contents instructed

to be executed by said execution instructing device; and

executing, by a contents processing execution module, processing of the contents to be

processed, according to the functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function

permission module[[;]].

8.   (Previously Presented)   A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1,

further including an update device that updates the plug-in management file.

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